Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
October 17, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King;

We had a very pleasant trip here and like the looks of things first rate. Everything is just a bit better than we had expected, including the plant and the people. They have been unusually kind and thoughtful of our comfort and needs. The property strikes us as being very attractive.

I did not see Mr. Gould in the office in Seattle but did meet Mr Thompson.

We became quite friendly with "Uncle Bill" Barrow on the boat and conducted a worship service together in the social room of the boat Sunday morning. That night the boat docked in Ketchikan and remained there for four hours. We looked up Mr. Beck and ended up by conducting the evening service for him. Now that I have seen both Ketchikan and Wrangell, I am glad that I picked Wrangell.

Miss Fairbairn, the new diatician for Sheldon Jackson was also on our boat and happened to be placed at the same dining table with us.

Mr. Barritt, superintendent of the Wrangell, Institute, was also on the boat. We talked things over about my part in the work at the Institute. He said that 65% of the students at the Institute are Presbyterian and that work with them was a very valuable part of the missionary work in Alaska since the students come from all over the Territory.

He also informed me that there is no bus connections between Wrangell and the Institute and that it would be impossible to carry on the work there without a car. The Salvation Army man called on me Yesterday. He has a car that works as he says, spasmodically. I bummed a ride out with him for next Tuesday. The Episcopal man does not have a car but has a room at the health center at the Institute. On Tuesday evenings the three ministers and catholic priest all have religious education classes at the same time with their particular group. Attendance is voluntary. Then each minister preaches out there one Sunday a month. On that Sunday it will be necessary for me to go out there for a service at a quarter of ten, have the service and be back here in time to have the morning service at eleven o'clock.

The freight rate on cars from Seattle to Wrangell is $2.25 per hundred pounds plus wharfage of $3.00 at Seattle and $3.50 at Wrangell. My car is listed at a weight of 2812 pounds. That would make the total freight come to $69.77. At the present time my car is in storage in Seattle at $4.00 per month.

Our youngest was accidentally exposed to measles the day before we left Reserve. The local doctor just pronounced him as having the things.

Mr. George Betts and Mr. E. E. Bromley called on us today. He gave me a few pointers on the work of thefield, repots etc. I believe he also wrote you concerning my need of a car if I am to carry on the work at the Institute. While he was here I had him sign my report.

In my report, I have submitted a total expense for the trip from Reserve to Seattle of $53.75, for gas, board and room. The figure 1750 represents the shortest possible route from Reserve to Seattle and I figured we could not possible have made it in less than five days, considering the children. To take care of our luggage, car, etc. it was necessary for us to spend a day in Seattle at a cost of $5.00.

We did not actually take the shortest route to Seattle as we visited Zion and Bryce National parks, spent a couple of days in Salt Lake City, visited Portland etc. I blew a tire the second day out ruining it and the tube. I spent $16.00 on a new tire and tube. Also had to have about eight dollars worth of repair work on the car, brakes, lights, distributor etc. On the trip from Reserve to Seattle, I actually spent $115.00 and am submitting a bill for less than half.

The total freight on the filing cabinet and trunk from Reserve to Silver City, New Mexico-to-Seattle-to-Wrangell-came to $33.07. I borrowed $29.00 from Mr. Bromley today to get the stuff out of the freight office so we could get the blankets out of the trunk for our bed. There were none here.

I have exactly eighty cents to go on between now and when my check arrives.

Everyone up here wonders how we are going to like Alaska. We think that we are really going to take to it. We had a prayer meeting last night followed by a meeting of the Elders and Deacons. Sunday, in addition to the Morning and Evening Services we are arranging a special Memorial Service for a former ex-mayor and prominent citizen who was clawed by a grizzly bear up the river from here and died in a hospital in Seattle the day we left there.

I want to send this air-mail as it is late so will send it on its way.

Sincerely,

H. Harry

Box #275
Wrangell, Alaska
October 24,1940

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King;-

I have today written to Mr. and Mrs. John Scheide of Titusville, Pennsylvania, whose generosity made it possible to supplement my regular salary. And I am grateful to you for directing it my way. I sure can use it. The cost of living is upped a little herenot only because of boat rates, but just because it is being done. There is no excuse for charging 65 cents for an ordinary haircut but that is what I paid Yesterday. On the way home I picked up a "Life" magazine marked plainly 10 cents but it cost me 15 cents.

The people here have been unusually hospitable towards us. Many have called at the house and they have done so many little things for our comfort. They are having a reception for us tonight at the church.

One of the first things I was requested to here was to arrange a memorial service for a former prominent citizen and member of the church. It was suggested that I call upon the other ministers in town and have and have a a community service. The enclosed program is the result. The local newspaper had a cut of the Church so I had them print some folders and I mimeographed the Order of Service. I used the School mimeograph but is was a headacheit was so old. I wonder if Miss Jane Gillespie has a mimeograph or ditto or hectograph lying around without an owner? I could make very good use of one of them.

I have been in Alaska eleven days and have'nt seen a fish yet, though I am rapidly turning into one on account of the persistent rains. We had an idea that all we would have to eat here would be fish and sea foods. They tell me no one up here eats that stuff, they are all sick of it. I can't buy a fish at the meat market, I guess I will have to go down to the docks and buy one from a fisherman.

Thanks again.

Respectfully yours,

Harry

N.H.Champlin

First Presbyterian Church

Wrangell, Alaska

The Rev. N. Harry Champlin, Minister

IN MEMORIAM

October 20, 1940 - 2:30 P.M.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship — The Rev. A. L. Calame

Doxology

Invocation, The Lord's Prayer — Brigadier J. S. Gillingham

Gloria Patri

Responsive Reading #69 — The Rev. M. L. Miles

Hymn #33 "Abide With Me"

The Scripture Reading John 1:1-12

Pastoral Prayer — The Rev. Arnold Krone

Anthem "Sunset and Evening Star" — Combined Presbyterian and Episcopal Choirs

Biographical Sketch of Mr. Frank S Barnes — Mr. Robert C. Evans

Sermon "I Am the Light of the World" — The Rev. N. Harry Champlin

Hymn #34 "Softly Now The Light of Day"

Benediction and Silent Prayer

Organ Postlude

IN REMEMBRANCE

We pause for a few moments this afternoon to pay public tribute to the memory of one of our number who surely earned for himself the rank of a genuine Alaskan

Born in Portland, Oregon fifty years ago, Frank Scott Barnes for the last thirty years has been identified with Alaska.

He became prominent in the life of Wrangell as an able and sympathetic public servant, and as an interested and enthusiastic citizen.

He became a member of this Church on the fifth of June, nineteen hundred thirty-two by letter from the First Presbyterian Church of Portland, Oregon.

He entered his Eternal Home on October the eleventh, nineteen hundred and forty.

We extend our sincere sympathy to his loved ones in their bereavement.

A. Earl Kernahan, in his book, "Great Sermons on Evangelism", ironically puts the modern answer to the Macedonian call in a reply, ostensibly from the Great Apostle:

Dear Sir and Brother:

Doubtless you will recall the invitation you extended to me to come over into Macedonia and help the people of that section. You will pardon me for saying that I am somewhat surprised that you should expect a man of my standing in the church seriously to consider a call on such meager information. There are a munber of things I should like to learn before giving my decision, and I would appreciate your dropping me a line, addressing me at Troas. First of all, I should like to know if Macedonia is a circuit of a station. There is another item that you have overlooked in your brief and somewhat sudden invitation. Mo me tion was made of the salary I was to receive. I have been through a long and expensive course of training; in fact, I may state, with reas nable pride, that I ama a Sanhedrin man, the o ly one in the ministry today. Kindly get the good Macedonian brethren together and see what you can do in the way of support.

You have told me nothing about Macedonia beyond the implication that the place needs help. What are the social advantages? is the church well organized? I recently had a fine offer to return to Damascus at an increase of salary, and am told that I made a very favorable impression on the church ar Jerusalem. I will say that I am a first-class mixer and especially strong on argumentative preaching. If I accept the call, I must stipulate for two months' vacation and the privilege of taking an occassional lecture. My lecture on "Over the Wall in a Basket" is worht two drachma of any man's money.

Sincerely yours,

Paul

I picked this up in Salt Lake City on way up here.

NHC

October 26, 1940

AIRMAIL

Rev. N. Harry Champlin
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Harry:

Enclosed you will find two checks. One is in the amount of $14.95 to cover your travel expense in New Mexico. The other is for $186.82 which includes $86.82 to cover the balance of your travel and incidental expenses from New Mexico to Seattle. It also includes $80 to take care of expenses involved in transporting your car from Seattle to Wrangell. Under the set-up, it is necessary that you have this transportation.

I have had a clipping about the death of Mr. Barnes whom I met when I was in Alaska last year. That certainly was a tragic affair.

Please write me your reaction to the work there in Alaska, as well as your wife's reaction to the living quarters.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH
Enclosures 2

November 7, 1940

Rev. Mr. N. Harry Champlin
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Harry:

I can appreciate what you mean by saying that prices in Alaska are so much higher than here. I experienced that on my trip.

I am glad the people have received you with open arms and that you are finding the work pleasant.

I do not know about the mimeograph but I shall send a memo to Miss Gillespie and see if she can find one.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

Wrote Gillespie 11-7-40

Wrangell, Alaska
November 7, 1940

Dear Dr. King —

That first morning in Wrangell seems now, as I look back, very gloomy. We were awakened at five A.M. by the deep whistle of our boat. After hurriedly dressing ourselves, and two sleepy children, we found ourselves once more on dry land. But it wasn't very dry! A drizzling rain was falling, and it was still dark. So this was Wrangell.

Mrs. Meadows was looking for us a few minutes later. She took us to the manse, and after we had a satisfying breakfast our spirits were lifted.

I like Wrangell. I like the manse - it is very pleasant and comfortable. The Ladies Aid had prepared the house for our coming, and everything was clean and shining. The view from our front window is lovely - I spend too much time watching the fishing boats. I guess I will become accustomed to seeing them after awhile.

I am really sorry that I ever hesitated about coming to Alaska. The country is inspiringly beautiful, and the people are fine. I know that we will like the work, too.

Sincerely

Mrs. Harry Champlin

Box #275
Wrangell, Alaska
November 7,1940

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City, N.Y.

re your letter 10/26/40

Dear Dr. King;-

All of your communications and checks have arrived and we are grateful for your co-operation and response to the needs here as we see them. I have my car now and it is plenty good for this country. There is not a new model car on the island.

Though I do feel a slight tug at my heart strings when I think of some of the folks in New Mexico, I am enjoying the work here thoroughly. They seem very friendly on this island and are quick to respond to one's needs. The Church members all seem to be anxious to have us like Wrangell. There is no better friend than the cowboy of the West or the homesteader of the West, but they are just a bit slower in accepting a stranger than are the people here in Alaska. And I believe friendships here will prove just as true.

I went fishing last Saturday with some of the boys, and caught four trout. One measured 15 inches from stem to stern. He provided our Sunday dinner.

Today, one of the ladies of the Church went with me to call on some of the families out the Institute road. They all seem to be good wholesome people.

It will be a slower process to become acquainted with the natives but we find them very interesting and at times, amusing. They all seem like little children, though they would not appreciate being so called. They attend the services quite well.

The enclosed letter is from an Elder in the church in Oneida, N.Y. and refers to the "Fund" Mr. R. B. Ruby is having such difficulty in placing. I am answering the letter but pass it on to you in case you have any ideas. I shall give Mr. Hope your name.

Respectfully yours,

H. Harry

Box #275
Wrangell, Alaska
November 14,1940

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:-

Enclosed is my initial report of my work in Alaska. As the report form is new to me, I am not sure everything I included should be included, and perhaps I left out some attendances that should have been included.

The first few days were, ofcourse, taken up with settling in the new home. In fact, all of our spare time all month has been so spent; changing things to our taste around the house, mowing the lawn, getting used to the heating systems, fixing up the study, etc.,etc.

Our first Sunday afternoon we had a community Memorial Service for a former member of the church, Mr. Frank Barnes. We also gave the address at Armistice Day community service but did not include the attendance in our report as the meeting was held in the local theatre.

There were two social events held in the church this month. The first was a reception for the minister and his family to many members of other churches in addition to our own members attended. The other social was a Hallowe'en Party for all of the Young People in town. We had them all come to a party and then invited them all to an organization meeting of Christian Endeavor. 85 came to the party and 20 came to C.E. It looks like it will take all right.

Our Sunday Evening Services are not up to much as yet. The first Sunday evening of each month we are planning to have it a musical meeting with special instrumental and vocal selections, singing of favorite hymns, the story of hymns and whatever we can conceive of in this manner. On our last service of this kind which was also the first, our junior choir, made up entirely of natives, sang for us.

For our second Sunday evening of each month we are using "A Treasury of Worship" by Helen A Dickinson arranging the services to meet our tastes.

The remaining Sunday evening services are preaching services. We hope to turn one of these Sundays over to the Young People each month but cannot hope to do that until they are better organized. We plan to have some kind of a youth program one Sunday night a month anyway.

So far our Prayer meetings have been along the same order, with the singing of songs of praise, a season of prayer by nearly all in attendance, followed by a sermonette by the minister. We have ordered a dozen copies of Dr. Kerr's "A Manual of Faith and Life" and as soon as they arrive, we plan to take up one subject each week.

Our Sunday Morning sermon subjects were:
"God as Revealed through Jesus Christ" --"And the Word became flesh.." John 1:14.
"Thy Kingdom Come"--"Thy Kingdom Come; Thy will be done" Math.6:10.
"The Abundant Life" -- "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it abundantly! John 10:10
"Christianity & Democracy" -- "If this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it."

This month we also preached ont these subjects:
"Ambassadors for Christ" II Cor. 5:20.
"Ships and Men" Ecclesiasticus 43:24.
"Patriotism" Gen. 12:1-3.
"I Am the Light of the World". John 8:12.

Our Prayer Meeting subjects were: "Kindness", "Progress", "Consecration", "Suffering".

We have included in our report the attendance for the Ladies Aid Meetings, The Missionary Society Meetings, and the Junior & Senior Choir Practices since they seem to us to be a vital part of the Church program.

We have attended meetings of the Chamber of Commerce and the Red Cross. We have also attended two practices of the Men's Chorus which meets one hour a week on Friday nights. As long as this does not conflict with any of our services we think it is time well spent. The chorus sings for special occassions and put on their own concert once during the year. They sang for the Armistice Day program and this Saturday night will have a combined program with a visiting coronetist, the proceeds going to local charity.

Another thing has come up about which we would like your advice. A National Guard unit is being organized here and they want me to sign up as their Chaplain. What do you think about it? I believe one signs up for three years but I understand it is possible to resign at any time.

I would appreciate any suggestions this report may have instigated. I did not mention the Institute--will do next time.

Respectfully yours,

H. Harry Champlin

November 27, 1940

Rev. Mr. N. Harry Champlin
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Harry:

Thank you for the article you sent and for the information you gave me about Mr. Ruby. I passed on your article to the editor of WOMEN AND MISSIONS and I hope it will make its appearance. I think it is a very good article.

I am planning to go to Oneida this coming Sunday for a conference.

I am glad to note the happy way the people are receiving you and I do believe you are serving the place the Lord would have you to be.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

Box #275
Wrangell, Alaska
November 29, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City

Dear Dr. King;-

If the following suggestions are too much bother or impractical from your end of the line, please throw this away and forget about it.

I wonder if it would be possible to have the remainder of my increase in salary meted out monthly. I would suggest $30.00 in January and $15.00 each month thereafter. That would bring everything out even by October first.

Why the $30.00 in January? Well, I will have to buy a license for my car, I wish to buy a second hand electric washing machine for $30.00, finish paying for a radio, and I don't know yet whether I am exempt from the $5.00 anual head tax. Also would like to finish paying for this new conference insurance policy.

I had to delete the years 1938-1939 and 1939-1940 of my pension but I am paid up to January 1st on this year 1940-1941.

We find the cost of living here higher than in New Mexico. Food is higher, our fuel bill for one month here would take care of that item in Reserve for the six coldest months. We also have a three dollar phone bill each month which seems a bit unnecessary to us but we are expected to have it. Both the heater and the kitchen range are oil burners. We still have a note in the Silver City Bank but with the increase everything will work out O.K.

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The following is an incident that happened last week and is just between you and me.

There was nothing which raised my stock more with the men folks on the Reserve field than the eleven-day cattle drive I made with a few of them. The way in which a tenderfoot, and especially a preacher, acts in such a situation becomes common talk.

After I had been here in Wrangell a couple of weeks and had met a good many people, I had the desire in the back of my mind to have some kind of an experience with some of them which would be a test of myself.

A week ago today, the cashier of the bank, Mr. Thornquist, told me that he was going after his boss that afternoon who was a Presbyterian and he wanted me to be sure to meet him. I told him I would be very glad to. Then he had a happy thought and asked me if I would like to go with him, and ofcourse I jumped at the chance. He said he would be going in the "Betty",apologetically. I replied that it was all right with me. I wanted to see what a fishing boat waslike anyway.

Atttwo o'clock we pulled away from the dock and headed west-southwest for the mouth of Wrangell Narrows some twenty miles distant. Mr. Thornquist, young Frank Barnes, a little Swede as pilot and I made up the crew. I spent the first half hour taking two films of snapshots of the boat drawing away from Wrangell, of a steamboat just coming into harbor, of the mouth of the Stickeen, and snow covered mountains.

During the next two hours we enjoyed a smooth passage while I did my best to become nautically acclimated. Besides asking the name of every island and mountain peak we passed or could see, I found out the meaning of such terms as starboard,port,fathom,knot,blinker, spar,red light and green lights in the channel etc, etc. Upon reaching the mouth of the Narrows which was our destination, we skimmed over the placid waters for a half mile and dropped anchor. A shrimper was lying at anchor in a little cove as we passed but it soon pulled out and headed for home as darkness gradually enveloped us.

We descended into the galley where we enjoyed some hot coffee, doughnuts, and sweet rolls. Young Frank Barnes turned on the radio and talked to his mother in Wrangell, telling her of our whereabouts. He intimated to her that there was a very remote chance that we would not come home that night assudden strong wind had just blown up. They arranged to talk to each other again two hours later. This two-way short wave radio is a wonderful thing for boats. A half hour later a small launch from Petersburg on its way to Wrangell pulled up behind us and asked if they could tie on us. The wind was so strong as they left the Narrows that they decided to put up a while to see if it would abate.

They had just made fast to us when we saw the lights of a big steamer coming through the Narrows, so they loosed from

us, and headed back home to Petersburg. We immediately heaved anchor by the overhand method, started the huge diesal motor and made ready to draw alongside of the steamer. It was the "McKinley", which we had come to meet as it was not scheduled to dock in Wrangell. From our little boat on the surface of the water, it looked like a huge mountain fising out of the water. We pulled up on the port side of the bow where a ladder had been lowered, and made fast. Immediately the banker, Mr. Rasmussen, came down the ladder and boarded us. His luggage was lowered on a rope. It must have been a source of amusement to most of the passengers as the rails were crowded with folks leaning over them to see below. When the last piece of luggage had been lowered we bid the captain and the whole outfit good bye and pulled away. In about five minutes the steamer passed us up in good shape. It amazed me how these boats could ply their way at full speed through these narrow passages in pitch darkness. I was informed that they do it by the use of a compass and a log of previous passages.

As we left the mouth of the Narrows and set our course east-northeast, we were running head on into a strong wind which made the waters rather choppy. A half hour later there was a high wind and we were in rough water. It seems that whenever the wind comes down the Stickeen River, it it causes the waters of even this inside passage to become choppy. During the next hour that wind had whipped itself up into practically a hurricane and the waves were easily six feet high.

The "Betty" is a sturdy forty-five foot fishing boat with the wheel-house and galley and moter forward, leaving plenty of room for the hold where the fish is carried. Through some oversight, there was no ballast in the hold and the "Betty" rolled and tossed on the high seas like a cork. Every other wave she jumped over she would get off her course about fifteen points. Up and down and up and down, higher up and lower down she plunged whipping up the waves and splashing them over her full length. The wind was so strong it caused the galley stove pipe to hum like the deep throated whistle of a steamship. When she was not climbing into the skies and sounding the depths she slid sideways and rolled back and forth and back and forth, each time a little farther. Young Frank said, "We can't stand this much longer" as he tried to hold her in her course to break her from rolling. It had begun to snow and we could not see more than two or three hundred yards in any direction. The pilot was on deck trying to get his bearings, pick up the shoreline or a light but it could not be done. He came in, took the wheel, frantically looked out one side and then the other and finally opened the window and stuck his head out. A wave came up and smacked him in the face and sprayed us all. I licked the salt water off of my mouth. It was cold and invigorating. Soon the waves sprayed in so frequently we began to get wet and cold. Thornquist went below to put all movable objects away. The pilot went aft to tie down the boom which snapped and cracked with every jolt. We all huddled in the wheelhouse and strained our eyes to see something besides water. We kept our feet only by holding on to something with all our strength. Even then we weaved and bounded around plenty.

Though I had asked for just such an experience, it was not quite so pleasant in reality. I took it all very calmly at first. But when they all showed evidences of strain and nervousness I felt the same way. They talked of turning about and running with the storm but did not know their bearings and were sure to capsize if they ever got broadsides to the waves. The pilot said, "I've got to go ahead". The ships log was not aboard so they were running east-north east as nearly as possible and taking the chance they were not drifting too far. I could not help but pray for our safety. It was my source of strength. In a few minutes we picked up the blinker light on Two-tree Island and headed dead for it. It was the proverbial light in the storm, for it meant calm waters beyond. With that discovery we all took a deep breath and uttered a sigh of relief, though not a panicy word had been uttered by any of us. With the strain over, Mr. Rasmussen went out on deck and obediently lost his supper. He was the only one so affected. We passed the blinker and could see the glow of the lights from Wrangell in the far distance. Soon we could pick up the red glow from the cross on our Presbyterian church. That lighted cross will always have more significance to me because of this experience.

Sincerely,

H. Harry S.

December 5, 1940

Rev. Mr. H. Harry Champlin
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Champlin:

I had the pleasure last Sunday of visiting in your old church at Oneida. I met many of your friends and had a most delightful visit. I think we have worked out a plan to help Mr. Ruby invest his money.

I do not know of any corrections or suggestions that need to be made about your report. I would like to know about the $8.00 that was contributed to National Missions designated to Haines. Was this money sent directly to Haines? I think you will do well to try to develop the people into giving to our Board of National Missions.

The matter of signing up as the Chaplain for the National Guard is purely your personal affair. Since this is in line with your likes, I do not see any reason why you cannot render some useful service by so doing.

I trust that all is going well.

Cordially yours,

EBK:TTL

Box #275
Wrangell, Alaska
December 16, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Supplememt to Monthly Report.

Dear Dr. King:

The work at Wrangell Institute is going along fairly well considering the fact that the superintendent is a Roman Catholic along with most of his staff. From them we do not receive enthusiastic cooperation but rather a dignified acquiesence. The students are not urged to come to Bible classes but rather are permitted to attend. Considering these facts we have a fair attendance though it wavers considerably according to what happens to be going on on the Tuesday evenings when we hold classes. As a rule I have the largest class. I conduct morning chapel every third Sunday morning at which not a single staff member appears and which is held at the time when most of the students are cleaning up their rooms for Sunday inspection. Considering all of these things, I think we are lucky to be able to do as much as we do. Right now there is a measles epidemic there which, ofcourse, affects our attendance.

The Missionary Society which is made up entirely of natives, meets at the manse every Friday night to sew for their Christmas sale which comes off this Saturday. The Ladies Aid, which is made up entirely of whites, have abandoned their meetings until after the new year.appears.

I was scheduled to preach at the Community Thanksgiving service but ended up by offering the pastoral prayer. The Episcopal clergyman was scheduled to give the Armistice Day address but when that day arrived he was in the hospital with the flu. So at the eleventh hour I got the job. This being the case, I turned over the Thanksgiving address to him.

We observed Universal Bible Sunday at the morning service December 8th. At that time we had on display about a dozen different translations of the Scriptures. The week before, we asked the congregation to bring any Bible they might have which had some special significance. There were two brought which had been presented in 1881 by S. Hall Young.

Right now we are up to our ears in preparation for our special Christmas services. In this "frozen Alaska country" there is not even any snow on the ground.

H. Harry Chamberlin

December 17, 1940

Rev. Mr. N. Harry Champlin
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Harry:

Thank you for sending me the description of your wild ride at sea. It was an experience for you!

I am glad you had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Rasmussen. He is one of my good Alaskan friends and I think most highly of him and his judgement.

I am sorry to say it will be necessary for us to pay you the balance due of $150 in one payment. The next payment will be around shortly. You can count on that.

I have Mr. Pederson's resignation as pastor of the church at Wrangell. Now it is up to you to give me a definite decision as to whether or not you want to continue in the work there in Wrangell. I believe it will be worth while. Every report I get about you is most encouraging.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

Box #275
Wrangell, Alaska
January 14, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Supplement to January Monthly Report:-

Dear Dr. King;

All of the ministers in town met with the Red Cross Council and submitted the names of needy people in the community. We went over these lists and picked twenty-five of the most needy. Two days before Christmas each of these names or families received a good portion of foodstuffs delivered to their doors.

The Missionary Society (Native) held a bazaar a few days before Christmas, in the church parlors. They sold all kinds of needlework etc., and served coffee and cake. I do not know what they made but I do know that they bought a crate of apples and a box of tangerines for the Young People's Social and Watch Night service New Years Eve. A bus load of the students from the Institute came in for the social but had to leave before the midnight service. We also invited adults to the Service and about ten responded.

On the Sunday before Christmas we had a special Christmas Church Service in the morning and that night we had a Christmas pageant which was well attended.

On Christmas Eve I brought the Christmas Message to the students at the Institute at their regular program. After speaking, I immediately returned to Wrangell for our Christmas Tree program with all the fixings including "Old St. Nick" as my son calls him.

On the third, a man came to me with tears in his eyes and asked me if I would conduct the funeral for his wife who had died the night before. He was a Lutheran and his wife Catholic. Out of respect for her he asked the priest to conduct the funeral. Upon his refusal, he came to me. We had a simple church funeral attended by a church full of natives, the deceased being a native.

On January fifth, we had our first Communion service since I have been here. In Reserve, a Communion service always meant a smaller attendance than usual but not so here. Attendance increased. At this service I baptized one infant, received two new members on profession of faith, one on reaffirmation of faith and four by certificate.

On the night of the fifth we played host to the Wrangell Institute mixed chorus of some 45 voices. They sang Christmas Music, and made a very good impression.

For the past week up until today, I have hardly moved off of the place. My wife came down with the flu a week ago and was flat on her back until today. She is still very weak.

Respectfully yours,

N. Harry Champlin.

Box #275
Wrangell, Alaska
January 16, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King;

I was glad to hear that your trip to Oneida was not entirely unsuccessful. Though I have not heard from any about the Ruby fund since your visit, I trust all concerned are satisfied.

The $8.00 contributed to Haines was sent directly before my arrival on the scene. I learned of it when I attended a Missionary Society meeting and heard a letter of acknowledgment read. I shall try to have all future contributions sent through the Board.

Since Mr. Pederson's resignation, I have been wondering myself just how long I would like to stay here in Wrangell. Or rather, I have been wondering how long we would like to stay here. We have had some measure of success so far and if we can continue to accomplish objectives there should be no reason from the work standpoint for wishing to give it up.

There is another element however, that might have to be taken into consideration. And three months in the country is not long enough to judge fairly. I refer to the effect of the climate and country in general on the health of the family. So far, both of the boys have had the measles since we have been here and Yesterday Betty got out of bed for the first time in six days. She had a bad attack of the flu and it is the sickest she has been since we have been married. Ofcourse, a person might catch the measles or flu anywhere. That is why I would say that atleast a year should be spent here before drawing any conclusions on the health score.

With reasonable health, cooperation of the people, and continual fair success, I do not see now why we should not continue in the work in Wrangell.

Respectfully yours,

H. Harry Thompson

January 21, 1941

Rev. Mr. N. Harry Champlin
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Harry:

Thanks for the interesting description of the work in Wrangell. I am receiving friendly reports about your work and I trust you are enjoying it.

I have not as yet heard whether or not you expect to remain in Wrangell. You recall that I wrote you for a definite answer. I would like for you to tell me what is in your mind. Do you want to stay?

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

P.O.Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
February 17, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Supplement to Monthly Report:

Dear Dr. King;-

The attendances at our services in January showed the evidences of the "flu" in town. A few stayed away from public gatherings, not because they had the flu, but because they were afraid they would get it. As a whole, the attendances held up fairly well.

I was under the weather myself for a week and had to omit the weekly class at the Institute and the mid-week prayer meeting.

The attendance at Young People's Meetings took a sharp decline and worried us slightly. We finally found out in an indirect way that the older Young People did not care to meet with the younger ones. When we first organized they voted to meet together, but as the thing progressed, they apparently did not like it. We are having a business meeting and social this week to see if we cannot straighten out the situation.

We have felt that we have not been reaching the native women in Bible instruction adequately. So, every other Friday evening they are meeting at the manse where they have a half hour Bible study conducted by Mrs. Champlin. Then they have their regular meeting with sewing and refreshments.

For some reason or other, we have been having difficulty in getting good leadership for the Sunday School. We cannot hope to improve the Sunday School until we have teachers for all classes that like to teach. We found one young man last week and need two more men or women. So far we cannot get adults interested in Sunday School. We would like to have an adult Bible Class.

They tell us that things are picking up as far as the church is concerned, but we have a long ways to go.

The phone just rang, my wife answered, and this is what the male operator said, "Tell your old man there is a Chamber of Commerce meeting today!"

Respectfully yours,

J. Harry Champlin

P.O.Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
February 17, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

2/26/41 C.W.

Dear Dr. King;-

Enclosed you will find a New York draft for $13.00 which represents our special offering for National Missions which you requested we take this month. It seems like a fair amount to me, but maybe, in the light of what your goal is, it is not a proportionate amount from Wrangell.

In response to your last letter, I sent you a wire and also a letter. The latter was not sent air mail as you requested in liew of the wire. I trust you have received both.

Some time past I made a request, through you, of a mimeograph or duplicator of some sort. I wish to cancel that request. A month or so ago, a Presbyterian tourist from Connecticut came this way, became interested in the church and had occassion to request a bulletin. I gave him an old one lying around here and mentioned not having a mimeograph to make new ones. Upon his return home, he wrote that he found a used one in his storeroom, was having it cleaned and sent to me. It has not arrived but I am sure it will.

I am looking forward to the meeting of Presbytery to be held the end of next month. It will be interesting to meet all of the workers in the field and gain an insight into the scope of the work here in Southeaster Alaska. So far, I have not found out how we all get transported to the meeting place in Haines.

Yours faithfully,

M. Harry

February 26, 1941

Rev. Mr. N. Harry Champlin
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Harry:

Thank you for the check for $15.00 which we are crediting to the Wrangell Church. It is most gratifying the response that we are receiving from Friendship Month.

I am glad that you got your mimeograph. I am sorry that we were not in a position to help you.

Cordially yours,

PBK:B

P.O.Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska
May 14, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Supplement to monthly report.

Dear Dr. King:-

The new Scout Executive for Alaska made me the Scout Commissioner for Wrangell. My job is to keep the Scouting wheels moving but so far, have not had much success. The American Legion sponsors the local troop. I did give them a talk one night and revived their interest. We appointed new committeemen and a new Scoutmaster. Now that summer is here, the committeemen will not function and the new Scoutmaster has gone to Bristol Bay fishing. I guess we will have to wait until Fall to accomplish anything.

I have been singing with the Wrangell Male Chorus all winter. We gave a free concert at Wrangell Institute one night and the next night, one in Wrangell at which admission was charged. In return, the Institute Glee Club sang in our church one Sunday evening and gave a full concert at the Institute free.

On his way South, Mr. Bromley left some National Missions Pictures here. We showed some and sent them on, and still have some more to show. We are showing them in Church, in the school, and I am taking some to the Institute tonight. I have a projector which belongs to the Board and would like to keep if for the summer if possible. I would also appreciate any pictures I can get.

Mr. Bromley said something about the Board going 50-50 on cameras for Alaska Missionaries. I have nothing but a snapshot camera and would like to get a hold of a camera that takes transparencies, also a projector for the same. There are different kinds, of course, with different prices, but I would like one that takes color or Kodachrome. They are economical and serve the purpose as far as advertising missions is concerned.

Miss Benfer was a visitor while her boat was in dock. We showed her as much as we could in the limited time. I planned to take her to the Institute on the return trip, but her boat was not scheduled to stop here on the return. About every other Alaska Steamship Boat passes Wrangell up.

Sincerely,

N. Harry Champlin

July 24, 1941

Rev. Mr. H. Harry Champlin
Box 275
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Harry:

We made such a proposition relative to Kodaks only to our Sunday School Missionaries. Am sorry we cannot include our men in Alaska but we do not have the funds.

Last week we started a camp meeting near Magdalena on Dub Evans' Ranch. It was a great event. Sunday we had around three hundred people. Wish you could have been with us.

Cordially yours,

EBK:TTL
Penned at Albuquerque, N. M.

ALASKA

P.O. Box 439
Wrangell, Alaska
August 16, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Supplement to Monthly Report:

Dear Dr. King:

We closed our two-weeks Vacation Bible School with a program and picnic. We had eight days of dry weather during the school which is quite a record up here. I think we will plan to run the school three weeks next year. We had a total attendance of 48 pupils and 5 teachers.

Cupid worked overtime this month and I had three weddings. The U. S. Commissioner had a couple too.

At a regular congregational meeting held on the 10th after Church, our application for aid was presented and accepted with a plan drawn up for the year; an increase to $400.00 on the minister's salary as you suggested; and an increase in interest in general.

Everything is SALMON in these parts now. The three canneries in Wrangell alone have put up 200,000 cases of the stuff in one month. Labor is at a premium. The captain of one of the tenders stopped me on the street Tuesday, said he was short handed and wondered if I would go on his boat as deck hand for a trip. I did. The trip lasted three days. I shoveled three tons of crushed ice, took the wheel for six or eight hours, tallied 10,000 fish one night between 11 P. M. and 4 A. M., tied and untied ropes by the score. All the hard work I did is common talk. It did not do me or the Church any harm, if anything it did a little good.

All of this cannery business has hurt attendance at our services considerable and forced us to discontinue some for the season. The canneries should close in two weeks unless the government permits them to continue longer on account of the war. Our work should pick up immediately after the canneries close. It affects Sunday School attendance by causing the older children to stay home and take care of younger one while the parents work.

Sincerely, H. Harry [illegible]

P.O. Box 439
Wrangell, Alaska
October 15, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Supplement to Monthly Report:

Dear Dr. King:-

We thoroughly enjoyed the trip to Sitka and the meetings with you and Dr. Smith. We managed to get a few fairly good pictures which we showed last evening after Prayer Meeting. Will send a couple to you when reprints are made.

Activities are gradually picking up here in Wrangell all of which keeps us continually on the go. We observed World Wide Communion Sunday and sent a small offering to the Presbyterian Emergency Fund. We received four new members into the membership of the Church at the Communion Service.

Last Sunday, after the regular Church Service we had a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing two Ruling Elders. The choices were very good and we plan an ordination service for this Sunday, which is also the first anniversary of our arrival in Wrangell.

We are spending each Thursday Evening with prospective Boy Scouts in an effort to get the movement on its feet here in Wrangell. When this is accomplished,

we hope to turn it over to someone else.

The Ladies Aid is sponsoring a kindergarten for pre-school age children. The local public school does not provide such a school and there was a need felt for such a thing. The school meets from 9 to 12 every morning, Monday through Friday, in the Primary room of the Sunday School with our regular Primary teacher as the teacher. There are about a dozen children enrolled and they pay $5.00 a month to attend. This covers the expense with the exception of a few materials provided by the Ladies Aid. It has already caused a few of the children to come to Sunday School who had not been attending before.

We thought we might see Wilber Randall and Monia on their way North but their boat evidently did not put in at this port.

Sincerely,

N. Harry Champlin.

November 5, 1941

Rev. Mr. N. Harry Champlin
Box 439
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Harry:

I am sorry that you did not get to see the Randalls when they were on their way to Seward. I know that it must have been a disappointment.

It was interesting to note about the election of two ruling Elders. I wonder how old these newly elected Elders are.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

ALASKA

Box 439
Wrangell, Alaska
Nov. 18, 1941

Dear Mr. Bromley

My report is late and I have not written a superlendent so guess I'll send it direct whenever I get around to writing it.

It seems we have no worker in Kake now and our people are drinking heavily. That is the report I have heard — where is Wanamaker?

Young, formerly at Craig, went through here on his way to Anchorage.

Sincerely,
H. H. Franklin

P.O.Box 439
Wrangell, Alaska
December 2, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. King:-

Your last note does not seem to be around but I remember you asked something concerning our newly elected Elders.

Mr. E. R. Sharnbroich is 33, married with two daughters; is our Sunday School Superintendent and sings in the choir. He was on the staff at Sheldon Jackson 6 or 8 years ago and was formerly a member of a Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon. He is a natural for an Elder.

Miss Irene Coulter was elected by the Congregation as an Elder but she was never ordained. After the two of us talked the matter over, we decided she was not ready for such an exemplar position in the Church.

Under separate cover I am sending you a few of our recent bulletins. The bulletin which appeared on the occassion of our first anniversary here should be of special note to you. I meant to send it to your long before this but never got around to it.

The Salvation Army Commissioner Ormes from Toronto was here for a Congress. Wrangell is Headquarters for their work in Alaska and norther British Columbia. Their Citidal is quite small so we gave them the use of our Church for their opening Service. They used the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall thereafter. Our Native Missionary Society served a light lunch after the service. There were quite a few visitors from other villages. I have called upon the local officer, Brigadier Gillingham, to preach for me the two times I was attending Presbytery. The work of the Salvation Army in Alaska is almost 100% Native work and is quite worth while.

Sincerely,

Harry

December 16, 1941

Rev. Mr. N. Harry Champlin
Box 439
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Harry:

Thank you for your good letter of December 2nd sending me more information about the newly elected Elders.

I am going to look forward to the bulletins that you have promised to send.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

Box 439
Wrangell, Alaska
December 18, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Supplement to Monthly Report:

Dear Dr. King:-

Thank you kindly for "The Spiritual Diary". Be sure we will make good use of it.

Though the students who care to may attend Bible Instruction classes and chapel each week at the Institute, I think it is a good idea to bring them into our church once in a while. A classroom does not give quite the atmosphere that a church does. Even our chapel services are held in a classroom at the Institute. 28 Presbyterian students came in for our morning service on December 16th. And I am going to see if the same group cannot come in for our Christmas tree program next week.

Wrangell's Community Thanksgiving Day Service was held this year in the Episcopal Church and I did the preaching. It is the custom here each year to change around among the churches.

The day after Thanksgiving I took the Boy Scouts on an overnight hike. We caught a few trout and had a good time.

The big event of the month was ofcourse the outbreak of the war. The boat on which Art and Ann Bily were traveling was held up here for two days and nights. It finally pulled out completely blacked out. I believe they will do very well in Sitka. They took the sudden change in events very calmly.

Immediately upon the outbreak of the war, guards were stationed at all important points in town. I was given the job of keeping the various stations supplied with food. This lasted for a week. Now the guard system is so arranged that every available man guards only one hour each day and therefore does not need to be supplied with food. I spend the hour from ten to eleven each night with another man guarding the power plant. It is an inexpensive system and seems adequate. In fact the whole thing seems like a waste of time but one never knows.

The Red Cross, ofcourse, immediately jumped into action with a War Relief Drive. I collected $250.00 off of Front Street Monday for the drive.

With the first blush of the war, we were besieged with blackouts. Had to skip a class at the Institute for one. Now we will have a blackout only in case of necessity.

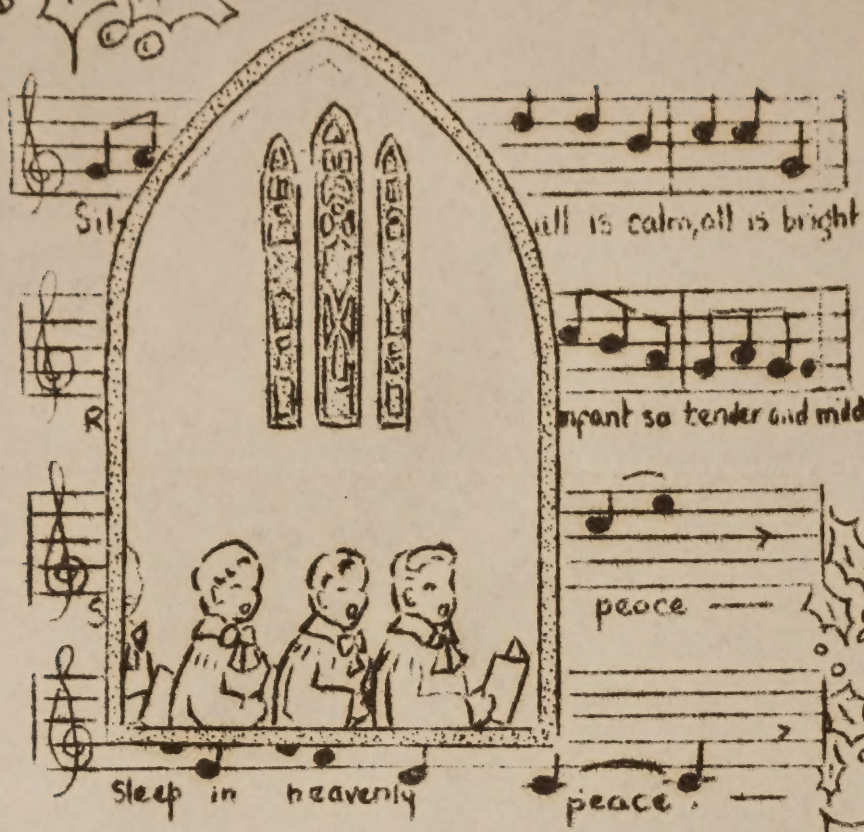
The enclosed pictures are disappointing to me but I send them on to you anyway. The picture of you and Dr.Smith is a very good slide of you both but in printing it they washed the color out and cut off the top of your head.

The other picture was a hit or miss proposition anyway. I had a daylight film in my camera and had to use the photographers flask for light. Just before he flashed, I opened my shutter, and after the flash, I closed it. I had to get out of the range of his camera and therefore could not get you all in focus. I was also holding the camera all the time which accounts for the blurr. Better luck next time. I have a good slide of you alone.

Enclosed also, are copies of two mimeographed letters. Copies of one I sent to interested friends outside. Copies of the other will be sent to the members of the congregation with a copy of "A Year With The Bible".

We wish you all the joys of the Season.

Sincerely,

Harry

A Joyous Christmas

GREETINGS from ALASKA:

The skies are overcast; the ground is covered with snow and ice. Our front door faces the war. Indeed, our hearts beat heavily this Christmastide for those who will not experience a joyful Christmas.

We are thankful for a good year in Wrangell; for many friends; for the widespread interest in our work; and for some evidences of things done for the Master.

In all humility we face the days ahead in the spirit of that far-borne anthem of the angels, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

With best wishes,

Rev. & Mrs. N. Harry Champlin & boys.